

Rise of an 8-Year-Old Preacher Inspires Brazil's Evangelical Revival

In a rural church in Brazil's São Paulo state, 8-year-old Ester Souza steps behind a pulpit and preaches with a calm confidence far beyond her years. Her messages are simple, emotional and rooted in a testimony that has captivated millions online. She survived a severe kidney failure in 2020, spent months in the hospital, and later received a transplant. When she tells congregants, "The doctors said no, but God said yes," the room erupts. Adults cry. Children cheer. Her videos reach audiences across Brazil.

Ester is part of a broader shift in Latin America's largest nation, as reported by The Washington Post. Evangelicals once made up a small fraction of Brazil's population. Today, they account for more than a quarter of the country, and researchers expect them to become the majority by 2050. While churches have long relied on adults to lead evangelism efforts, many congregations are now embracing children as key voices. Social media has accelerated this trend, giving young preachers national platforms.